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# Soviet Role Seen In Duplicate Copies Of Svetlana's Book

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Publication in London yesterday of Svetlana Alliluyeva's book in Russian is the latest twist in the curious story of Moscow's efforts to discredit Stalin's daughter.

Harper & Row will bring out the American edition on Oct. 16 but its British associate, Hutchinson & Co., felt itself forced to print an advance version in Russian in order to protect the copyright in the United Kingdom. Alex Flegon, a London entrepreneur, is trying to publish an English-language version of what is thought to be the same book.

Mrs. Alliluyeva left behind two copies of her manuscript when she left the Soviet Union for India, Switzerland and the United States. She brought one copy with her for which Harper & Row, Hutchinson's and a number of newspapers and magazines have paid an estimated \$3.25 million to print this fall. Mrs. Alliluyeva is expected to keep about half.

## Court Action

If Flegon—whatever his personal motives may be—could get his English version into print first it would take the edge off the editions which Mrs. Alliluyeva authorized. So far he has been blocked in a British court but the publication of the Russian edition may have the same effect. And that may be just what the Soviets want.

First reports on the Russian version show that it contains no sensations, in international political terms. Thus, as Moscow may be hoping, by the time Harper & Row get their edition out it may be old hat.

The Soviets have charged that the United States is trying, through Miss Alliluyeva's memoirs, to attack the Soviet Union which in November will have a giant celebration of its 50th anniversary. Initial publication just before that celebration might have discolored some of the glitter.

## Soviet Plan

What is not clear is the extent of the Soviet hand in forcing the publication of the Russian language text. But it appears to go like this:

Flegon will not say where he got his manuscript but it appears to be one of the two Mrs. Alliluyeva left behind in Moscow. Flegon says only that he got his copy from Russian sources.

The middleman appears to have been a Soviet newsman named Victor Louis who is an accredited Moscow correspondent for the London Evening News, the paper which yesterday published the first review of the new Russian language version.

Louis has had an odd career. He got out the first word of Nikita Khrushchev's fall from power, he did public relations for Valery Tarsis, the renegade Soviet writer, when he was in Britain and he seems to have been the middleman for the recent NBC telecast of Khrushchev-in-exile.

According to some sources, Louis himself tried to sell a Soviet-translated English version of the memoirs in England before Flegon entered the picture. The Evening News has said it rejected such a manuscript.

At any rate, the effect of

what has now occurred is to "Manchesterize" the memoirs, that is, to get enough of it printed before the official publication to take the edge off, as happened with William Manchester's "Death of a President."

American officials, trying to judge the Soviet motivation, see the Kremlin as terribly embarrassed by her defection. The Soviet tactic in important cases, they point out, is to indulge in "overkill."

This has taken the form of official pronouncements against Stalin's daughter, led by Soviet Premier Kosygin's cutting remarks about her at his United Nations press conference, other attacks printed in the Soviet press and picked up around the world by left-wing and Communist papers, and word-of-mouth character assassination.

## CIA Accused

Mrs. Alliluyeva has been pictured as a person of bad morals, a psychotic and a traitor who sold out her country for American dollars. Some accounts have pictured her as being held incommunicado in the United States while the CIA was writing her memoirs.

Such allegations, especially the personal ones, first turned up on the diplomatic-journalistic grapevine in Moscow last March. Pressure is said to have been put on persons who might help her in India and Switzerland. On July 22 a Soviet press article charged that leading American officials head a major attack on the Soviet Union designed to smear and frustrate the 50th anniversary celebration.

Efforts were made to delay publication of the memoirs until after the celebration, according to American officials. Arthur Schlesinger, jr., visiting in Moscow was asked by Yuri Zhukov, a leading Soviet journalist-official, to carry that plea back to the United States which he did, but to no avail.

According to some sources, Louis not only brought the manuscript to London but also pictures of Mrs. Alliluyeva with Lavrenti Beria, the executed secret police boss under Stalin, and other matter defamatory of her. None of the latter has yet surfaced, however, nor does it appear to have had any effect in halting publication of the memoirs.